

UNITED STATES CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

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CPSC CLAMPING DOWN ON E-BIKE LITHIUM-ION BATTERY FIRES WITH SAME PLAYBOOK SUCCESSFULLY USED TO COMBAT HOVERBOARD FIRES

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Destructive and deadly fires from lithium-ion batteries in e-bikes have reached a crisis level. The tragic loss of life from battery fires is heartbreaking and preventable.

A few years ago, hoverboards were causing burn injuries and property damage at an alarming scale. CPSC took swift action to warn companies to comply with minimum safety protocols or their hoverboards would be deemed a substantial product hazard, subject to recall and seizure at import. We asked manufacturers, distributors, and importers to stop trafficking uncertified products immediately. Now, with mounting fires sparked by other micromobility products, we are warning companies to stop trafficking uncertified e-bikes.

Imported lithium-ion batteries/ e-bikes that fail minimum industry standards may be seized at the ports. We may levy penalties against those who fail to inform our agency of hazards posed by their products. And we will seek recalls if necessary.

The damage from battery fires falls heavily in dense urban areas and burdens historically neglected communities. New York City faces heightened challenges, and the City Council is considering several pathbreaking bills to address lithium-ion battery fires. Meanwhile, FDNY Commissioner Laura Kavanagh has urged CPSC to regulate these products and incentivize safer designs. We will continue working closely with policymakers and community members until this hazard is solved.